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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SR-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05
AID-07 /081 W

[redacted] 028826 100642Z /40

EXCISE 114 E b(1) ED

R 091425Z SEP 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4712
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RD DATE 25 JUN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 6642

E.O. 12065: ADS 9/8/86 (LAWRENCE, LOREN) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: SEAGA ACCUSES PNP OF WANTING TO DELAY ELECTION

REF: KINGSTON 6609

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AT A JAMAICA LABOR PARTY (JLP) RALLY IN HANOVER PARISH ON SEPTEMBER 4, OPPOSITION LEADER EDWARD SEAGA CHARGED THAT ELEMENTS WITHIN THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) WERE PLANNING TO POSTPONE THE NATIONAL ELEVCTIONS FROM OCTOBER 1980 TO FEBRUARY 1981. SEAGA SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED PNP GENERAL SECRETARY D.K. DUNCAN AS ONE ARGUING FOR THE DELAY "IN VIEW OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF A JLP VICTORY."

3. SEAGA WARNED THAT THE ONLY THING HOLDING JAMAICA TOGETHER WAS THE EXPECTION OF AN OCTOBER ELECTIONGN AND HE WARNED THAT THE JLP WOULD TAKE TO THE STREETS TO PROTEST ANY POSTPONEMENT.

b(1) ED

4. [redacted]

ACCORDING TO SEAGA, A RECENT PNP POLL SHOWING THE JLP AHEAD OF THE PNP BY 59-41 IS THE REASON FOR THE MOE WITHIN THE PARTY FOR POSTPONEMENT. SEAGA IS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO ANY DELAY, BECAUSE HE IS CONFIDENT FO WINNING, BECAUSE THE PARTY IS BROKE, AND BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THE NATIONA CANNOT DEAL WITH ITS PROBLEMS UNTL AFTER AN ELECTION.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS THAT SOME WITHIN THE PNP FAVOR DELAY IN THE

ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THE ODDS REMAIN IN FAVOR OF A LATE OCTOBER ELECTION (SEE REFTEL). SEAGA'S STATEMENT APPEARS DESIGNED TO GAIN SOME POLITICAL ADVANTAGE BY SUGGESTING THAT THE PNP WANTS TO DELAY THE ELECTIONS, WHEN ALMOST ALL JAMAICANS WANT TO GET THEM OVER WITH, AS WELL AS REFLECTING A REAL FEAR OF A DELAY.
LAWRENCE

[redacted]

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